(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Upgradation and modernisation of airports infrastructure facilities are continuous processes taken up on the basis of traffic and other related requirements.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) is in the process of restructuring metro airports of Delhi and Mumbai to develop them into world-class standards.

Modernisation and upgradation of passenger terminal facilities have also been planned by AAI on the basis of traffic, requirements at Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Varanasi, Calicut, Visakhapatnam, Dibrugarh, Gaya, Goa, Ranchi, Madurai, Trichy, Rajkot, Bhavnagar and Surat airports.

Upgradation of runways, navigational and landing aids have also been planned by AAI at Jaipur, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Varanasi, Visakhapatnam, Mangalore, Trichy, Madurai, Raipur, Khajuraho, Jammu and Amritsar airports.

Modernisation of IA fleet

31. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to modernise Indian Airlines fleet;

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines propose to acquire new planes;

(c) if so, the details in this regard;

(d) whether these planes will be acquired on Wet Lease system; and

(e) if so, the details of the financing for the acquisition of new planes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines has proposed to acquire 43 aircraft comprising A319, A320 and A321 for replacement of the ageing fleet of A300 and B737-200 as well as to meet the projected growth.

(d) No, Sir. The aircraft are proposed to be acquired through outright purchase.

(e) The financing for the acquisition of new aircraft would be arranged through external commercial borrowings and internal resources. The actual financing pattern would, however, be decided at the time of delivery of the aircraft after the perposal is approved.

Privatisation of airports

32. SHRI K. CHANDRAM PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise airports in the country;

(b) if so, whether Delhi and Mumbai airports are also being considered for privatisation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the airports listed for privatisation togetherwith the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Delhi and Mumbai, airports are among the profit making airports in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government has approved that restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai airports may be undertaken through Joint Venture (JV) route by formation of separate companies between Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Joint Venture (JV) partner.

(c) The reasons *inter alia* are: the need to improve the standard of services and facilities at International Airports and to facilitate infusion of private sector investment in airport sector through public-private partnership and the objective to improve managerial and operational efficiencies of Delhi and Mumbai airports.

(d) At present, only Delhi and Mumbai airports are being restructured, since they are the major international gateways to India.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) During the year 2003-2004, Delhi and Mumbai airports earned the profit before tax to the tune of Rs. 229.35 crore and Rs. 349.48 crore respectively.